

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By the foregoing amendment, claims 13-15 and 18-20 finally rejected in the Office Action of October 29, 2003 have been cancelled. The dependency of claim 17 has been amended to claim 16, the latter claim 16 being indicated formally allowed in the Office Action of October 29, 2003.

Accordingly, applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance with claims 16 and 17, and early notification of the formal allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: Richard Besha
Richard G. Besha
Reg. No. 22,770

RGB:ljb
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100